(a) whether it is a fact that Railways on the demand of the residents of Konkan, had assured them at the time of introducing Konkan Railway in Maharashtra to provide stalls at the railway platforms;

(b) if so, the number of unemployed persons to whom stalls have been provided at railway platforms so far and the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether Government would consider to provide employment to such unemployed persons as per their demand?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Strike by CGHS staff

†*352. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether about thirty thousand health employees of various institutions of the Central Government went on strike on 18 November, 2005, which had widely affected the health services;

(b) if so, the reasons for their strike;

(c) whether employees have requested Government to accept their demands before going on strike; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to accept their demands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The Central Health Employees Federation (CHEF) had given a notice in their letter dated 19.10.2005 for one day strike on 18.11.2005 alleging non-fulfilment of their demands. Some Group 'C' and 'D' employees of Safdarjung Hospital, Dr. R.M.L. Hospital and CGHS participated in the strike on 18.11.2005. However, there was no disruption of work in these hospitals as contingency plan was prepared for smooth functioning of concerned institutions. The employees of Lady Hardinge Medical College did not participate in the strike.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) The demands of Central Health Employees Federation (CHEF) were discussed in a meeting taken by Secretary (H&FW) on 1.8.2005. Further, these were discussed in a meeting taken by Minister of Health and Family Welfare on the same day. The progress of action taken on the Charter of Demands was discussed in a meeting taken on 11.11.2005 by Director General of Health Services (DGHS). The status of each of the items were duly intimated to the Federation.

Rotary Cancer Hospital at AIIMS

*353. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Indian Rotary Cancer Hospital at AIIMS has been delayed and is yet to become fully operational and if so, the reason therefor;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the equipment and external services had not been planned along with the construction of the building thus contributing to the delay and if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when the cancer unit is likely to become fully operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Initially, the proposal for Institute Rotary Cancer Hospital (IRCH) at AIIMS was approved in 1993, at a cost of Rs. 20.00 crores. Due to increased demand for the services for Cancer patients, there was change in the scope of the project. The Revised Cost Estimate of Rs. 98.41 crores is pending approval of the Government.

The first four floors of the IRCH at AIIMS are, however, functional. The Civil and Electrical Works for the remaining three floors have also been completed. The remaining three floors of the Centre will become fully operational as soon as the approval is received for the Revised Cost Estimate of Rs. 98.41 crores.